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GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE AND MAPS

(INCLUDING ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY)

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

AMERICA

The Grand Canyon of Arizona. How to See It. By George Wharton James. With numerous illustrations of points of interest and maps. 8vo, pp. xii and 265. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1910. \$1.50.

The great division of the long line of chasms of the Colorado River of the West, named in 1869 by Major Powell "The Grand Canyon," has become famous and each year is visited, on the south side of the eastern portion, by thousands of tourists. No adequate guide book existed till Mr. James brought out this one to supply the deficiency. It is elaborately and carefully prepared and there seems to be no point of interest which has been overlooked. The book will be truly invaluable to every visitor in answering the many questions that are certain to arise. There are numerous good photographs in half-tone and a "Detail Map of Granite Gorge Section" which is the part immediately under the terminal of the railway, and east and west from it, for a total of about 35 miles in an air line. The detail is mainly in the place-names, not in the topography, and one is reminded again by these names of the mistaken ideas we seem to have in this country as to proper geographic nomenclature. Our Troy, Rome, Carthage, Athens, Corfu, Cairo, etc., it would appear, should have taught us better, but here in the majestic Grand Canyon region, where simplicity ought to prevail, the grandiose effort is repeated, and we have, alas! Walhalla, Ottoman, Krishna, Shiva, Buddha, Sagittarius, Zoroaster, and an interminable list of like monstrosities applied to buttes and promontories, due to a schoolboy-phase of culture. Anthon's Classical Dictionary is not the proper source for United States place-names.

The first white men to see the great gorge are believed to have been Captain Cardenas and his party of Coronado's expedition in 1540; at any rate, they hold the record. Cardenas has been credited with the statement that the chasm was three or four leagues deep, notwithstanding the absurdity of such a description coming from an educated gentleman belonging to the Spanish nobility. Mr. James quotes this statement on p. 196, from some un-named translator: "they came to the banks of the river which seemed to be more than three or four leagues above the stream which flowed between them." Think of an explorer who could talk of a canyon from nine to twelve miles deep.

The original statement as it occurs in the Castañeda manuscript in the Lenox Library (the source of almost all the information about Coronado and his men) is this: "*a las barrancas del rio que puestos a el lado (or bado, the word is indistinct) de ellas parecia al otro bordo que avia mas de tres o quatro leguas por el ayre.*" The reviewer has compared this transcript with

the manuscript, and with the exception noted as to b or l in *lado*, it is correct. The statement is readily seen to refer to the distance from one side of the canyon's brink to the other in an air line and it has no reference to depth. The distance is actually from 9 to 12 miles. This distortion has been due to careless reading. In Winship's Monograph (14th Ann. Rept. Bur. Am. Eth., Part II, p. 429) the Spanish of this passage is accurately given, with the exception of the b or l as noted above (he gives bado), but when he comes to translate he follows the time-honored mistake, giving the phrase as Mr. James quotes it, and referring in a foot-note to the French translation of Ternaux-Compans, as if that writer's error made the case any better. This reads: "Les bords sont tellement élevés qu'ils croyaient être à trois ou quatre lieues en l'air" (the banks were so high they seemed to be three or four leagues in the air). [Voyage de Cibola, p. 62, Vol. IX, T-C, Voy. & Rel., Bertrand, 1838 ed.] There is no reason to suppose that this author had any other source than that now in the Lenox, a MS. copy, 1596, of Castañeda's original, which has never been reported. This error, perhaps, is of small consequence, but we have gone into the subject here in order to stop its career, in the belief that every error is pernicious. Mr. James, of course, is in no way to blame, as he quoted what he believed to be authority.

As to the canyon itself, Mr. James speaks largely from actual experience, having "knocked about" the region a great deal. He was one of the first to give any extended description of the Havasupais who live in the depths of the Havasu tributary canyon, of which he gives an account in this volume.

The New North. Being some Account of a Woman's Journey through Canada to the Arctic. By Agnes Deans Cameron. xix and 398 pp., many photo-engravings and route map. D. Appleton & Company, New York, 1910.

Miss Cameron travelled through Canada, some thousands of miles, from Manitoba to the Arctic Ocean at the Mackenzie Delta. She has written a delightful travel book whose special value lies in its descriptions of development work north of Edmonton. Her photographs of this northern region are among the finest yet assembled and, with her graphic letterpress, they give a clear idea of the routes, settlements, white residents, Indians, Eskimos, trading posts and the bit of farming that has found lodgment in the Peace Valley, 400 miles north of Edmonton, where wheat, oats, barley and vegetables are reliable crops. Among many novelties, she shows the salt beds of Athabasca and the efforts to open the petroleum field in the same region. The book is well worth reading.

Our Search for a Wilderness. An Account of Two Ornithological Expeditions to Venezuela and to British Guiana. By Mary Blair Beebe and C. William Beebe, Curator of Ornithology in the New York Zoölogical Park, etc. Illustrated with Photographs from Life, taken by the Authors. xix and 408 pp., maps showing routes, and index. Henry Holt and Company, New York, 1910. \$2.75.

It is a satisfaction to know that the authors of this volume have received pleasure, as well as conferred it, by their studies of the fauna of a portion of South America which is somewhat remote from all frequented routes of travel though it lies rather near to the southern boundaries of our country; that they were powerfully attracted by "the thought of that vast continent [South